56. 1201

The Strange and Wonderful HISTORY
OF

Mother Shipton

Plainly setting forth
Her prodigious Birth, Life, Death, and Burial.
With an exact Collection of all her famous

PROPHECYS

More compleat than ever yet before published. And large Explanations, shewing how they have all along been fulfilled to this very YEAR.

Licensed according to Order.

The History of Mother Shipto

CHAP. I.

Of Mother Shiptons strange Parentage, and t place of her Birth.

MOTHER SHIPTON (as all Histori agee) was a *Yorkshire* woman ; b the particular place is *very* mu isputed, because several Towns have *prete* ed to the honour of *her Birth* ; But the mo redible and *received* opinion ascribes it Nasborough, near the *dropping Well*, in the Co aforesaid: concerning her *Pedigree* or *Par* age there is likewise very *various Report* Some say, that her *Father* was a *Necromanc* nd that skill in the Black Art *thereby* becam ntail'd upon her by *inheritance*; but the co

on Story (which *therefore* I shall follow, ye
ithout forcing the *Reader* to believe it wh
er he will or no) is, That she never had an
ther of humane Race, or *mortal wight*, bu
as begot (as the *great Welsh* Prophet *Merl*
as of old) by the Phantasm of *Apollo*, or som
anton Airial *Dæmon*, in manner following.

Her *Mother* (whom some Records call *A*
tha, and others *Emmatha*) being left an Or-
an about the Age of sixteen, very *poor*, an
uch *troubled* with that *grievous*, but com-
non disease, called by some *Idleness*, and by
thers *Sloth*; as she was once upon a time sit-
ng, bemoning *her* self on a *shady* bank by th
lighway side, this *spirit appear'd* to *her* in th
ape of a very handsom young man, & sm
ng on her, *Pretty maid*, quoth he, *why do*
ou sit so sad? Thou art not old enough to hav
y Head pestered with the cares of the World
ithee tell me the business, and doubt not but
ill help thee out of all thy troubles. The Mai
or Maids there *were* in those days at *her* age
sting up her eyes, and not suspecting a *dev*
d in so comely a countenance, *related* to hi
r wants, and that she knew not how to live

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I said he, *that's nothing, but be ruled by*
thou shalt never lack; she hearing him
e so fairly, told him she would; and the
on to *draw her* in by degrees to *destructi*
first tempted her to *Fornication*, and p
iled so *far* as to gain her, but his Touch
she *afterwards* confessed to the Midwi
ere as cold as Ice *or* Snow. From this ti
rward she was commonly once a day vi
d by her Hellish Gallant, and *never* want
oney, for *still* as she swept the House, s
ould find some odd pieces, as Ninepence
Quarters of thirteen-pence-half-pennys, a
he like, sufficient to supply *all* her occasio

CHAP. 2.

How Mother Shiptons *Mother proved w*
child; How she fitted the severe Justice, a
what hapned at her delivery.

THe *Neighbors* observing *Agatha* witho
any Employ to live so *handsomly*, wo
red exceedingly how she came *by* it, but *w*
more *surprized* shortly *afterward*, when th
erceiv'd her to be with child, which she *co*

pt long hide, for *before her delivery*, she w
big as if she had gone with half a do
ildren at once; whereupon she was *carried*
re a Justice, who chid & threatned *her* for
continency, but he was soon silenced,
s Wife and all his Family being present,
tha said to him aloud, *Mr. Justice, grave*
u talk now, and yet the truth is, your Wo
ip is not altogether free, for here stands
your Servant wenches, that are both at th
me with Child by you; pointing to them
erally with her *finger*: at which both him
nd the two Girls were so blank, that his w
lainly saw what she said was true, and *the*
re fell upon two *poor Harlots* like a *fury*,
ll Mr. Justice and the Constable could do
pt enough to keep the peace, and the whol
amily was in such confusion, that *Agatha*
at time was dismist, and soon after wa
rought to bed in the Month of *July*, in the
ear of the Reign of K. *Henry* the 7th. wh
as in the year of *our Lord*, 1488. Her *Tra*
as *very grievous*, and a most *terrible* Clap
under hapned just as she was delivered

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strange birth, which *afterward* was so
us by the name of Mother *Shipton*. N
d the Tempest affright the women mo
n the prodigious Physiognomy of t
ild; the body was long, but very *big-bone*
eat gogling eyes, very *sharp* and *fiery*, a No
unproportionable length, having in it ma
ooks and *turnings*, adorned with *gro*
ples, which like *vapours* of *brimstone* ga
ch a *lustre* in the night, that *her Nurse* no
d no *other* Candle to *dress her* by; and b
des this uncouth shape, it was *observ'd*, th
soon as she was born, she *fell* a *laughi*
nd *grinning* after a *jeering manner*, and in
ediately the Tempest ceased.

CHAP. 3.

what name mother Shipton *was christen*
and how her Mother went into a Monastery

THE Child being thus brought into t
World, under such *strange circumstan*
as (though not without some oppositio
dered at last by the Abbot of *Beverly* to
hristned, which was *performed* by the *nam*

rſula Soothtell: for the later was *her* fou
ers, and conſequently her Maiden Sirnam was
nd as for *Shipton*, it was the name of *her* h urs
and, whom ſhe afterwards *married*; as w th h
pear in the ſequel of this *Hiſtory*: and in th ry,
rticular moſt of the Authors I've Read ha d be
een fouly miſtaken. But to proceed, Wh mai
e was about two years old, *her* Mother c or, e
ling to be ſenſible of *her* evil, in holding a c eve
ſpondency with a wicked ſpirit, applying h cks
lf to ſeveral Religious men of *great note* i on a
oſe times, by whoſe *grave* advice ſhe grew ff w
uly penitent, and (according to the faſhio wh
f that Ages Devotion) put her ſelf into rk
ighbouring Monaſtery, having *firſt* put ou me
r Child with a piece of Money to a *friend* ith
d ſo ſpent the *remainder* of her days in the vir
mous Covent of the *order* of St. *Bridget*, near po
ottingham, in *prayers* and *tears*, and other acts nti
Pennance, to expiate the wickedneſs of her ouſ
uth; but wonderful it is to *relate* the *trou-* t ſ
s that befel the *Nurſe* ſhe was put to, *for her* ra
ther, the foul Fiend, is *reported ſeveral* times m
have viſited her, *particularly* one day the ft
urſe having been abroad, when ſhe *returned* w

ſhe

found *her door* open, whereupon fearing was Robb'd, ſhe call'd *three* or *four* neigh rs and their Wives to go into the hou th her, but before they got well into th ry, they heard a ſtrange noiſe, as if ther d been a thouſand Cats in *conſort*, which ſ maid them, that they all ran towards th or, *endeavouring* to get out again, but in vai *every* one of them had got Yokes on thei cks, that they could not poſſibly *return*, bu on after the Yokes fell off, and then a Caul ff was laid on 2 of the mens ſhoulders, up which an old woman preſented her ſel rk naked, ſometimes hanging by the heel metimes by the Toes, anon by the middle ith divers *other poſtures*, while the women ving all *their coats* turned over *their ears* poſed their ſhame to publick view, and c ntinued till a *Fryer* accidentally came to th ouſe, and then they was ſuddenly releaſed t ſtill the child having *been* taken out of th radle, could not be found, till at *laſt* one of th mpany *looking* by chance up the *chimny*, ſa ſtark naked, ſitting aſtride upon the *Ir* which the Pot-hooks was faſtned, whenc

the

hey took it down without the *least hurt*, so *far* from being *frighted*, that it seemed by its *monstrous smiles* to be very well pleased with these pleasant Exploits.

CHAP. 4.

Several other merry pranks plaid by Mother Shipton, *in Revenge to such as abused her.*

AS our *Ursula* grew up to *riper years*, she was often *affronted*, by reason of *her deformity*, but she never fail'd to be *revenged* on those that did it: As one day *all* the chief of the Parish being together at a *merry* meeting, she coming *thither* occasionally on an *Errand*, some of them abused her by *calling her*, The *Devils Bastard*, and *Hag-face*, and the like; whereupon she went away *grumbling*, but so *ordered* affairs, that when they was set down to *Dinner*, one of the *principal* Yeomen, that thought himself spruce and fine, had in an instant his Ruff (which in those days they *wore*) *all* off, and the Seat of an House of Office clapt in its place; he that sate next him burst out into a *laughter* at the sight *hereof*, was

ſerved *little better*, for his Hat was invi
y convey'd away, and the Pan of a Cloſe
l which ſtood in the next Room, put on
ead thereof. Beſides this, a modeſt young
ntlewoman that ſate at the Table at the
e time, looking at theſe two *worthy ſpect*
of *mirth*, endeavour'd *all* ſhe could to Re
n laughing, but cou'd not, and withal con
ued *breaking* of wind *backward* for above
ter of an *hour together*, like ſo many
oad-ſides in a Sea-fight, which made *all* th
mpany laugh ſo *extreamly*, that the Maſte
the houſe (being the chief Inn in the *town*
s alarm'd below *therewith*, and *deſirous* t
re with his Gueſts in *their mirth*, came
ning up *Stairs* as faſt as his Legs would
ry him, but being about to enter the *door*
could not, and no *wonder*, ſince the oldeſt
n living never ſaw a *larger pair* of *Horn*
h he had on his Head: But whilſt they
re gazing on one another, as more than
f diſtracted, they were all reduc'd to the
ne condition they were in at firſt, *after*
hich followed a noiſe, as if *more* than a *hun*
ed perſons were laughing together, but no
ng was ſeen.

Chap

CHAP. V.

How Ursula *married a young man named* To
Shipton, *and strangely discovered a Thief.*

OUr *Ursula* was now *arrived* at the Fo
and twentieth year of her age, and t
she was none of the prettiest Maids in t
Town, as you may *remember* by her descr
tion, yet she long'd for an husband as much
the *best* of them, & at last obtained her des
For whether she used any *Love-powder*
charms to enamour him, or whether *the* ho
of getting some money, which she was re
ted to have, tho' no body could tell how
should come by it, caused him to *court her*
some men *there are* that would not only m
y the Devils daughter, but his dam too
mony) I cannot *certainly* inform the Read
but a Sweetheart she had, named *Toby Ship*
by Trade a *Carpenter*, to whom she was sho
y after *married*, and very comfortably th
ved together, but never had any childre
It hapned about a Month after her *marri*
ne of her Neighbours leaving her *door* ca

y open, lost a new Smock and Petticoat
n away while she was *telling* a Gossips
of an hour long at next door, *whither she*
nt to fetch Fire; which misfortune much
lting her, she made her moan to our Mo-
Shipton, who did not go about like our *lit-*
tly Conjurers, with their Schemes and
ures to give a *blind description* of the *thief*
whom, but roundly *told* her such a Wo-
by name had stolen the things, adding,
she would make her *restore* them with a
ne to her; and so indeed she did; for the
Market day before *all* the people this
man *could* not avoid putting on the
ock over *her other* clothes, and the Petti-
in her hand, and so marched through the
d into the *Market-cross*, where the other
by Mother *Shiptons* directions to receive
n, dancing all the way, and singing these
rds:

I stole my Neighbour's Smock and Coat,
I am a Thief, and here I shew't.

nd so when she came to the owner, pull'd
he Smock, and gave her her own with a
verend courtesie, and so *departed*. Chap.

CHAP. 6.

Her Prophesy against Cardinal Woolsey.

BY these and several the like exploits, Mother *Shipton* had got a name far and near for a cunning woman, or a woman of the sight, so that her *words* began to be counted Oracles, nor did she meddle only with private persons, but was advised with concerned [illegible] ple of the *greatest Quality*; among which her at that time was Cardinal *Woolsey*, who it was *reported*, that he intended to live at [illegible] she *publickly* said, *He should never come there* which coming to his ear, and being much offended, he caused *three Lords* to go to her who came disguised to *Ring-horse* near [illegible] where leaving their men, they took a Coach and came to Mother *Shipton's*, where knocking at *her door*, she cryed out within, *Come Mr.* Beasly (their Guide) *and those Noble Lords with you*. Which much *surprized* them that she should know them, for when they came in, she *called* each of them by their names and *treated* them with Ale and Cakes, which [illegible] up

on said one of the Lords, *If you knew qu*
and you would not make so much of it, you sa
Cardinal should never see York. *No,* sai
I said he might see York, *but never come a*
Well, saies the Lord, *when he does com*
shalt be burnt. Then taking off her Lin
n Kerchief from her head, saies she, *If thi*
n, then I may burn; and immediately flung
nto the fire *before* them, but it would no
rn, so that *after* it had lain in the flames
ter of an *hour*, she took it out again no
much as singed. Hereupon one of the Lord
t her what she thought of him, *My Lord*
she, *the time is coming when your* Grac
be as low as I am, and that is a low one in-
d. Which proved *true*, for *shortly after*
was beheaded.

Nor was *her* speech of the *Cardinal* less ve-
d, for he coming to *Cawood*, went to th
of the *Tower*, & asked where *York was*, which
g shewn him, he enquired how *far* it was
ther, *For* (qd. he) *there was a Witch said,*
ld never see York. *Nay*, says one present,
r Eminence is misinformed, she said you shoul
it, but not come at it. Then he vow'd to *burn*

her

er when he came there, which was but eight
iles distant, but behold, immediately he was
ent for back by the King, and dyed of a vio-
nt Loosnels at *Leicester*.

CHAP. 7.

Some other Prophecies of Mother Shiptons, *relating to these times.*

AT divers other times, when persons of Qua-
lity came to visit her, she delivered the se-
veral prophecies following, that is to say,

1 Prophecy.

Before Owse-bridge *and* Trinity-Church *were,*
they shall build in the day, and it shall fall in the night,
until they get the highest stone of Trinity-Church *the*
west stone of Owse-bridge.

Explanation.

This came to pass: for *Trinity Steeple* in *York* was
own down with a Tempest, and *Owse-bridge* bro-
n down with a Flood, and what they did in the
ay-time in repairing the Bridge, fell down in the
ight, till at last they laid the highest Stone of the
eeple for the Foundation of the Bridge.

2. Prophecy.

The North shall Rue it wondrous sore,
But the South shall Rue it for evermore.

3. Pro-

3 Prophecy.

You shall have a year of pining Hunger, & shall no
w of the Wars over-night, yet shall you have it a
Morning, and when it happens, it shall last thre
rs, then will come a woman with one Eye, and sh
ll tread in many mens blood up to the Knee.

4 Prophecy.

Then may a Man take House or Bower, Land o
wer for one and twenty years; but afterwards shal
a white Harvest of Corn gotten in by Women; then
ll it be, that one Woman shall say to another, Mo
r, I have seen a Man to day!

Unhappy he that lives to see these days;
But happy are the dead, Shipton's wife says.

5 Prophecy.

A time shall happen, when a Ship shall come sailing
he Thames, *till it come against* London, *and the*
aster of the Ship shall weep, and the Mariners of
Ship shall ask him why he weeps, since he hath mad
good a Voyage; and he shall say, Ah! what
odly City this was, none in the world compa
le to it, and now there is scarce left an House
t can let us have drink for our money.

Explanation.

These last words were sadly verified afte
e dreadful Fire of *London*, 1666. when ther
as not an House left all along *Thames*-side
om the *Tower* to the *Temple*; As for th

words *before*, they being darkly delivered re not like to be understood, till time, that oth discovers and absconds all things, shall ring the matters signified to light.

CHAP. 8.

Her Prophecies in Verse to the Abbot of Beverly.

THe Abbot of *Beverly* giving her a Visit one day, told her, *That as he had found everal things that she had formerly said to be xactly true, so he was perswaded she was not Ignorant in those which for the future were to ensue, and therefore requested her to impart some of er fore-knowledge to him, for which Favour tho' more than his deserts could command, yet) hall he neither want a Tongue to acknowledge, nor Heart to endeavour a Requital for so great an bligation.* Mr. Abbot, saies she, *leave off complementing, I am an old Woman, who will neither utter, nor be flatter'd by any, yet shall answer our Desires as far as I may.* And thereupon id in mystick Verses discover to him the reatest Accidents that have happen'd in *En-*

ngland, from that day to this, as in the fol
wing Explanations will appear.

Prophecy.

When the Cow doth ride the Bull,
Then Prieſt beware thy Skull.

Explanation.

By the Cow was meant *H.* 8. who gave th
ow in his Arms as Earl of *Richmond*, and th
ull betoken'd Madam *Ann* of *Bulloigne*, no
ly as the firſt ſyllable of her name, but be
uſe her Father gave the black *Bulls-Head* i
s Creſt; and when the King *married her*
mediately after hapned the Diſſolution o
onaſteries, and *reſtraints* laid on the Prieſts

Prophecy.

For a ſweet pious Prince make room,
And in each Kirk prepare a Broom.

Explanation.

This is meant of King *Edward* the ſixth, i
hoſe time the Proteſtant Religion wa
ſtabliſhed, and the Popiſh Superſtition
wept out of the Kirk, an old word uſed *ſti*
n *Scotland* for the Church.

Prophecy.

Alecto *next aſſumes the Crown,*
And ſtreams of blood ſhall Smithfield *drown*

Explanation.

These Lines decipher Q. *Mary*, called *Alecto* (a name of one of the Furies) for her Cruelty to the Protestants, of whom great numbers were then burnt in *Smithfield*.

Prophecy.

A Maiden Queen full many a year
Shall Englands *War-like Scepter bear.*

Explanation.

Spoken of Q. *Elizabeth*, who Reigned, extreamly Beloved by her Subjects, and dreaded by her Enemies, above *Forty Years*.

Prophecy.

The Western Monarch's *Wooden Horses*
Shall be destroyed by the Drakes *Forces.*

Explanation.

The King of *Spain's* mighty Navy in 88. destroyed by the *English* Fleet under Captain *Drake*.

Prophecy.

The Northern Lyon over Tweed,
The Maiden *Queen shall next succeed,*
And joyn in one two mighty States,
Then shall Janus *shut his Gates.*

Ex-

 122V

Explanation.

This relates to King *James*, who having
een many Years King of *Scotland*, the Crown
England by Queen *Elizabeths* Death fell to
im, whereupon he came over *Tweed* to take
p his Reſidance here, and ſo joyned the two
ingdomes *under* one *Government*. And as
r *Janus* ſhutting his Gates, you muſt know
anus was one of the Heathen gods, that had
Temple at *Rome*, the Gates of which were
ever ſhut but in times of Peace, alluding
o which, *our Propheteſs* here declares the
eaceful Reign of King *James*.

Prophecy.

Forth from the North ſhall miſchief blow,
And Engliſh Hob *ſhall add thereto*;
Mars *ſhall rage as he were wood,*
And Earth ſhall drunken be with blood.

Explanation.

This relates to our Late *lamentable* Civ
Wars.

Prophecy.

But tell's what's next, Oh cruel Fate,
A King made Martyr *at his Gate.*

Meaning the Execrable *murther* of th
mo

noſt *Excellent* Prince, *Charles* the Firſt.
The juſt King dead, the Woolfe ſhall then
With blood uſurp the Lyons Den.
But Death ſhall hurry him away,
Confuſion *ſhall a while bear ſway,*
Till fate to England *ſhall reſtore*
A King to Reign as heretofore;
Who mercy and juſtice likewiſe
Shall in his Empire exerciſe.

Theſe Prophecies we have ſeen *fulfilled* y *Cromwel's* Uſurpations, the Committee Safetys Confuſions, and our Gracious Soeraign's Miraculous Reſtauration.

Prophecy.

Triumphant Death rides London *through,*
And men on tops of Houſes go.

Explanation.

The firſt Line points out the *great Sick:ſs* in *London*, 1665. And the ſecond the *eadful Fire* the Year following.

Let this ſuffice, the night comes on,
You muſt depart, and I be gone;
Apollo does forbid my Rhimes
For to unvail ſucceeding times.

Having

Having ſaid this, Mother *Shipton* aroſe, and the miring Abbot (who took all theſe Prophecies u muſt conceive, in writing) giving her many hanks, returned home.

CHAP. 9.

Of Mother Shiptons *Death, Burial, and Epitaph.*

His famous Propheteſs continued ſeveral years eſteemed, as the Sybil or Oracle of theſe mes. At laſt, being Threeſcore and Thirteen rs of Age, ſhe found the time in the black Book Deſtiny approaching, wherein ſhe muſt give a l adieu to the World, which ſhe foretold to a , to divers people, and at the hour predicted, ving taken ſolemn leave of her friends, laid ſelf down on her Bed, and dyed; on whom oet of this Age beſtowed this

EPITAPH.

Here lies ſhe who never ly'd,
Whoſe Skill ſo often has been try'd;
Her Prophecies ſhall ſtill ſurvive,
And ever keep her Name alive.

FINIS.

Books Sold by *J. Conyers* a little above Sr. *Andrews* Church in *Holbourn*.

1. MErry Jests of poor Robin the Sadler of Walden.
2. The Figure of Seven, new printed.
3. The new Academy of Complements. With a new Garland of Fifteen Songs.
4. The History of Reynard the Fox.
5. The History of Fortunatus.
6. The History of Doctor Faustus.
7. A new Book of Cookery.
8. Lilly's new Erra Pater,
9. Two Groatsworth of wit for a penny, Moles and Dreams.
10. Mother Shiptons Life and Prophecies.
11. An Hundred notable things for a penny.
12. The new Parliament of women.
13. The Rules of Civility; or the Art of good Breeding.
14. The English Mountebank: a Book of merry Conceits.
15. The Maids Complaint and Batchellor's Answer.
16. Dr. Lilly's last Legacy: A Book of choice Receipts of Physick and Chyrurgery.
17. The Distressed Welshman.

At the above-mentioned place any Chapmen may be furnished with all sorts of small Books.

57. 1825